

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
**INFORMATION REPORT**

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COUNTRY Bulgaria  
 SUBJECT 1. Maneuvers in Tvürditsa,  
 Nova Zagora Okoliya  
 2. Recall of Reserves  
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 (FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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Maneuvers in Tvürditsa, Nova Zagora Okoliya

1. On 12 September 1954 in Tvürditsa (N 42-42, E 25-54), about 80 reservists were recalled. The orders were distributed late at night, and the men were recalled early in the morning. The men were kept in a group, and isolated in a small garden until noon. Party members kept people away from the group. Much tension developed, and no one suspected that it was a training exercise.
2. On about 10-13 September 1954, in Tvürditsa, several small groups of soldiers arrived. Some were cartographers and were observed on the slopes around the village. Another group of soldiers (not Trudovaks), began work to erect a ramp, about 100 meters long and 4-5 meters wide, for unloading freight cars. About 20 soldiers worked on the ramp for a week. A small stone and concrete ramp exists at the railroad station.
3. From about 20 September, trains full of military materials, vehicles and soldiers began to arrive.  25X1  
 many other trains arrived. Many tanks, armored cars and other vehicles such as mobile bakeries and kitchens arrived at Tvürditsa, but were unloaded somewhere else.
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  - a. At least nine tanks (Soviet T 34/85); and
  - b. Several armored cars (many ZIS trucks and about 15 heavy new IFA East German make trucks, painted grey).

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(NOTE: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

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[redacted] many horse-drawn vehicles could be seen in and around the village. 25X1

5. At various times, infantry units arrived. One night, for more than an hour, [redacted] an infantry column moving through Tvürditsa toward the village of Sborishte (N 42-41, E 25-59), Nova Zagora Okoliya. 25X1
6. [redacted] approximately 3,000 soldiers were assembled around Tvürditsa. According to rumors, 5,000 soldiers were expected to arrive around Tvürditsa to participate in maneuvers from "Republikanski mashtab" (participation of units throughout the country). 25X1
7. [redacted] maneuvers were due to begin on 26 September, but they did not occur. [redacted] somewhere west of Karlovo and north of the railroad track, he observed a large military encampment [redacted] the tents of the camp were built near each other, while those around Tvürditsa were spread out over the hills in small groups of 10-15 tents, at a distance of between 40-50 meters. On the same day, between Kazanlık and Karlovo [redacted] a military train loaded with tanks, armored cars, and various military vehicles travelling west, towards Karlovo. 25X1 25X1 25X1
8. According to rumors, the maneuvers were to start from Burgas from one side, and from Plovdiv and Karlovo from the other. According to rumors, the units arriving in Tvürditsa came from Sliven, Nova Zagora and Stara Zagora. 25X1

Recall of Reserves

9. [redacted] youths of the 1929 and 1930 classes, who had been exempt from their respective classes because of education or illness, were now serving. The entire Classes of 1931, 1932 and 1933 are now in service. The 1931 class is due to be discharged some time this fall. On 7 October 1954, the 1934 class was called up. Border Guards and Interior Troops were called last fall, and will probably begin service this fall. 25X1

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